

1770-1779, United States Birth of a Nation

The U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving only white male property owners 21 and over the right to vote. During the American Revolution, property qualifications for voting were lowered in many states, with several states granting suffrage rights to any white male who paid taxes.

1780-1799, United States **Form of Government**

Article IV, section 4 of the U.S. Constitution: "The United States shall guarantee to every state in this Union a republican form of government." Thomas Jefferson argued that the true basis of a republic (representative democracy) is the equal right of every citizen to have an equal voice in the government's direction. Nevertheless, equal." only white property owners were allowed to vote.

1800-1849, United States All White Men

National laws extended suffrage to all white men 21 and older, regardless of property holdings or religion. In response, the "women's suffrage" movement began in 1848 by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who called the Seneca Falls Convention to proclaim that "all men and women are

1850-1859, Washington Territory **Voting in Washington Territory**

In February 1853, Governor Stevens issued a proclamation calling for elections. At the time, the chief officers of the Territory were appointed by the President of the United States. Thus the election was only for the members of the Territorial was still limited to "white male Assembly (Territorial Council and

House of Representatives) and local

government officials.

Also in 1854, the first law passed by the Washington Territorial Assembly concerned elections. The law established election procedures, precinct boundaries, and defined who could vote. At the time, suffrage inhabitants over the age of twenty-

1860-1870, United States Attempts to Include More

In 1867, a Congressional act allowed olacks to vote in the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. In 1868, Amendment 14, section 1, of the U.S. Constitution: "All citizens born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the U.S. and

of the state wherein they reside.

No state shall make or enforce any

law which shall abridge (limit) the

privileges of the citizens nor deny any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws." In 1870, Amendment 15 forbade all states to deny any person the right

to vote on grounds of race, color, or

previous condition of servitude.

organization of Washington as a state was passed on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1889. Commonly known as the "Enabling Act," it "enabled" the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions

Washington Becomes a State

The act of Congress authorizing the

1889, Washington State

and state governments.

1900-1930, United States

1914 Washington State **Voting Rights for Women** First Voters' Pamphlet

In 1913, Alice Paul led a march of men Washington's first statewide Voters' and women in Washington D.C. to Pamphlet was published in 1914. promote a women's suffrage It is now published and distributed to over 3,000,000 households for general amendment. Many were arrested for "obstructing traffic" or "disorderly elections in the fall. Many Washington conduct." In 1920, however, the counties also produce their own voters' pamphlets including information Nineteenth Amendment, giving about candidates running for county women the right to vote, was ratified.

1935 Washington State **Blanket Primary Begins** Washington uses a "blanket primary" system, where all candidates appear on

1931-1980 United States Finally...Civil Rights

In 1965, the landmark Voting Rights Act authorized the federal government to take over the registration of voters in areas where state officials had regularly prevented blacks and other minorities from voting and registering to vote through prohibitive literacy tests, grandfather clauses, and intimidation.

1971 Washington State

Voting Age Changed In 1971, the Twenty-sixth Amendment gave 18-year-olds the right to vote.

1983 Washington State **Vote by Mail Elections**

Special elections were allowed to be conducted by mail ballot. 1991 Washington State

Absentee Ballots

Any registered voter in Washington may apply in writing for status as an ongoing absentee voter.

Presidential Preference Primary

In 1992, the first Presidential

Preference Primary was held in

1992 Washington State

1993 United States "Motor Voter" In 1993, The National Voter Registration ('Motor Voter') Act required states to offer voter registration at drivers licensing and

Washington in which voters had to

choose a party-specific ballot with

very unpopular because of the state's

other government offices. Washington

passed a 'motor voter law' in 1990.

tradition of voter independence as

seen with the blanket primary.

1990-2002 Washington State Online Information candidates from only one party. It was

The surge of new technology at the end of the 20th century allows for even better access to information through the Internet, and increased voting convenience with absentee

2002 Washington State **Blanket Primary Proceedings**

Washington won a Federal Court ruling to continue holding primaries with all candidates from all parties on the ballot. This ruling was reversed in